

Dear Senator Rahman, Representative Kavros DeGraw and Honorable Members of the Planning & Development Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Greenspan. I am a resident of West Hartford and a member of the West Hartford Library Board.

I am testifying in support of HB6800. I am an avid library user, both of traditional books and of ebooks. I have noticed that many of the books I'd like to read are either not available in my library's ebook collection or have hold lists lasting the better part of a year. I was shocked to hear that this is because of the unfavorable terms our library receives from book publishers for the lending of ebooks.

Our library is an essential part of our community and it is upsetting to see library patrons getting frustrated and turning away from libraries as a result of this problem. I am in several book clubs who now have to either choose older books or purchase books because they cannot access the books through our library.

Our libraries are vital to our communities. They provide social and educational services thereby creating opportunities for all of our town's residents. A strong library system bolsters our local economy by driving up the market values in our town. Not only that, but our library provides access to materials and services for those who might not otherwise have the means to obtain them.

I strongly support HB6800. I hope the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers will listen to their constituents who support this bill and voted for you in order to be heard. Together, we can ensure that electronic resources are available at a fair price to libraries and the taxpayers who use them.

Thank you for your time,

Elizabeth J. Greenspan  
West Hartford